

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1161

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants for innovative teacher retention programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 24, 2009

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. WATT, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. WALZ, Mr. CLAY, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. SHULER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants for innovative teacher retention programs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Keep Teachers Teach-
5 ing Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The United States faces an increasing need
2 for high-quality educators.

3 (2) Approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of teachers leave the pro-
4 fession within 5 years of being hired because of poor
5 working conditions, low pay, low morale, or lack of
6 a pathway for professional advancement. In some
7 schools, the five-year attrition rate reaches 50 per-
8 cent.

9 (3) Effective teacher retention programs to ad-
10 dress this problem are already at work in school dis-
11 tricts around the country, and many more innovative
12 programs could be advanced if additional resources
13 were available.

14 (4) Efforts to address the teacher shortage de-
15 mands a national strategy to support the develop-
16 ment and implementation of innovative teacher re-
17 tention programs.

18 (5) The United States Department of Edu-
19 cation can play an important role in facilitating the
20 identification of the most promising teacher reten-
21 tion approaches and disseminating information
22 about them to States and local educational agencies.

1 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE TEACHER RETENTION**
2 **PROGRAMS.**

3 Section 2151 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
4 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6651) is amended by add-
5 ing at the end the following:

6 “(g) **TEACHER RETENTION ACTIVITIES.**—

7 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall estab-
8 lish and carry out a teacher retention program to as-
9 sist State educational agencies and local educational
10 agencies in developing and implementing innovative
11 teacher retention programs. The program shall sup-
12 port the development of model programs and best
13 practices in retaining quality teachers in the class-
14 room and shall facilitate the dissemination of inno-
15 vative teacher retention programs to local edu-
16 cational agencies throughout the United States.

17 “(2) **GRANTS.**—The Secretary shall carry out
18 paragraph (1) by making grants to eligible entities
19 to develop and implement innovative teacher reten-
20 tion programs, including activities such as—

21 “(A) professional development programs;

22 “(B) teacher mentoring programs;

23 “(C) advanced certification or advanced
24 credentialing;

25 “(D) research, travel, or fellowship oppor-
26 tunities; and

1 “(E) pairing of teachers with professionals
2 in research or industry.

3 “(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In this subsection,
4 the term ‘eligible entity’ includes—

5 “(A) local educational agencies;

6 “(B) State educational agencies; and

7 “(C) partnerships of local educational
8 agencies, nonprofit organizations, and institu-
9 tions of higher education.

10 “(4) GRANT TERMS.—Grants under this sub-
11 section shall be awarded for periods of not more
12 than 5 years and on a competitive basis. Grants
13 awarded under this subsection may be renewed.

14 “(5) SECRETARY’S DUTY TO IDENTIFY MOST
15 PROMISING TEACHER RETENTION APPROACHES.—

16 The Secretary shall identify the most promising
17 teacher retention approaches, including those al-
18 ready working and those developed through grants
19 funded under this subsection, and disseminate infor-
20 mation about those approaches to States and local
21 educational agencies around the country. The Sec-
22 retary shall transmit to the Committee on Education
23 and Labor of the House of Representatives and the
24 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
25 sions of the Senate, not later than 9 months after

1 the date of the enactment of this subsection, and an-
2 nually thereafter, a report that describes the meth-
3 odology by which the most promising teacher reten-
4 tion programs are identified and the Secretary's ef-
5 forts to disseminate information regarding such pro-
6 grams to State departments of education and local
7 educational agencies throughout the United States.'".

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